WHEN MAN IS AT HIS FINEST

It Is In the Court of the King of Kings When He Kneels In Prayer.

Pray without ceasing.—I. Thess. v. 17.

All divine commands make for the welfare of the individual and the civilization of the race. These laws forgotten, the man touches the nadir of degeneration, the family is a den of abomination and the nation totters on the brink of barbarism.

The faithful Christian is a conqueror in the moral world, bears off all its trophies and wears its crown and glory. These precepts do more. They hedge in all human dignity and guarantee privileges beyond the power of the world to destroy. Eminently true all this of prayer. The quickening pulse of prayer is in the heart only. Lip prayer alone is mockery and insult. Hence, when Heaven is deaf to our beseeching it is because while our voice mutters words of devotion we are bargaining in our souls with the world, the devil or the flesh. Never yet has the heart of man sent up on

THE WINGS OF PRAYER

its palpitating message without finding strength and healing. Even is such a pleading as music in the ears of God, causing His hand to open and shower down blessings.

To pray is a privilege beyond expression and the employing of our highest faculties in their noblest function. To pray is to be on the heights, in the court of the king of kings—it is fanning that spark divine which is in every one of us into a flame wrapping the soul in the splendor or raiment of the eternal halls. Prayer is the lordliest spurning of the world and the most defiant proclamation of the vanity of its promises and of its utter helplessness in our hour of need. Man is at his finest as he kneels in prayer.

What may we pray for? Augustine answers that it is our right to ask for anything and everything our heart has the right to desire. Nor is it impossible to pray without ceasing. If we only knew our danger and our dearth our whole being would be

ATTUNED TO PRAYER

and in the incessant encounter with our spiritual foes and perils our every thought and word and deed would be instinct with petition. Why lack trust in the efficacy of our supplication? Confidence is easy when we remember the infinite power of the God who made us, because He loves and yearns for us.

As we pray we are prostrate before omnipotence and boundless love. It will be well with us all when we learn to pray. If it is well with us now it is because there are more than ten just men appealing in our behalf. Yes, it is all right with the world because God is in His heaven, but it is more all right because He is on His earth as well and no sentinel bars our way to His presence.

REV. P. H. HALPIN.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, MAR. 20.

A Paralytic Forgiven and Healed, Matt. 9. 1-13. Golden Text, Matt. 9. 6.

Verse 1. Entered into a boat.—Acceding to the request of the people of Gerasa. He had gone thither for retirement, but events had thrust him once more into the thick of the crowd, and he turned back to his own city (Capernaum). Compare the additional interesting details of the story of the demoniac in Mark 5. 18-20.

2. They brought to him — From a study of the accounts in the first three Gospels it is impossible to tell what was the exact situation —whether Jesus was in the synagogue (David Smith), or in the house of Peter, or on the covered veranda of the house (Edersheim). At any rate, the throng was so great as to make access to Jesus impossible except through a hole in the roof.

Lying on a bed—Anything like a modern bedstead was rare among the ancients. Usually a thin mattress, sometimes supported by a light wooden portable frame, sufficed.

Seeing their faith—An example of prevailing intercessory faith. The man, being sick of the palsy, would hardly have the mental alertness requisite to an act of faith. Still, it may have been at his own instigation that the four friends had brought him to Jesus.

Be of good cheer—On his face must have been signs of the despair, and probably also the remorse, which was in his heart because of the sins which perhaps were responsible for his helpless condition. His bodily weakness had driven home the sense of his guilt and made him aware that his first need was to be forgiven. Jesus saw this and went to the root of the trouble at once.

3. Scribes—Tradition has assigned them a threefold task: (1) To study and develop the law; (2) to teach it; (3) to act as judges in the practical administration of the law. They were present on this occasion as critics of the method of Jesus. They had been deeply offended by his praise of the Gentile centurion, and were otherwise suspicious of Jesus. It is not improbable that they represented the Sanhedrin.

This man blasphemeth—To claim to be able to remit sins was to throw down the gauntlet to his opponents, for it was an assumption of both the uncommunicable power and the right of God. All the accusations of blasphemy brought against Jesus (three in number) were of this character. To speak blasphemously was to render oneself liable to the extreme penalty of the law.

4. Knowing their thoughts—Compare John 2. 25. All three accounts make it plain that knowledge of the reasoning of the scribes came, not from what they said, but from what he saw in their hearts, another evidence of a power not human.

5. Which is easier—There could be no doubt that it was easier to say, Thy sins are forgiven. According to a strict tardition, no man could get release from disease until all his sins had been remitted. If Jesus could heal, that in itself was proof of his power to forgive. An impostor would be detected at once, who should say, Arise, and walk; whereas anyone could say, without fear of his sham being detected, "Thy sins are forgiven."

6 Son of man—A phrase occurring eighty-one times in the Gospels, but used invariably by our Lord himself. An Old Testament title, which Jesus's hearers, together with all Jews, would understand to refer to the Messiah. By using it to designate himself Jesus proclaimed himself the Anointed of God, Fulfilment of Jewish hope, while emphasizing the closeness of his relation to the human race. It included the deeps of humiliation and the heights of kingship.

Hath authority on earth—As well as in heaven. He had not lost his right to forgive by condescending to his lowly human estate.

Arise—That alone might not have been convincing. But that he was able to bring into play his entire body in the act of gathering up his bed, and then to push through the dense press of people in getting to his house, was a complete vindication of the claim of Jesus. By this miracle Jesus allows himself to go on record as declaring his equality with God.

8. They glorified God who had given such authority unto men — They missed the significance of the incarnation. This was not power delegated to a mere man, but power inherent in Jesus as the Son of God. God did commit to specially ordained men the power of forgiveness, but a conditional, not an absolute power (John 20. 23).

Verses 9-13 treat of still another challenge to the Pharisees.

9. Matthew—This seems to be the adopted name of the man who figures in the other Gospels as Levi, the son of Alphaeus.

At the place of toll—Taxes were collected from goods imported or exported, and Capernaum would be a suitable place for a custom-house, situated as it was on the lake and on the great caravan route between Egypt and Damascus.

Follow me—His immediate response may be explained by the widespread fame of Jesus, and his own opportunities of hearing and seeing Jesus.

10. At meat in the house — From Luke we learn positively that it was Matthew's house, and "a great multitude" were there.

Publicans—A class hated by the Jews. The gathering of taxes was "farmed out" by the government at Rome, and was under the control of powerful capitalists. Extortion was the rule. The tax-collectors of the Gospels were agents of the monopolists and bore the brunt of hatred, being classed with cutthroats and robbers. The type most obnoxious of all were the Jewish publicans, of whom Matthew was one. Though a Jew, "he had hired himself to the Roman government to do the heathen's work for the heathen's gold, profiting by the shame and oppression of his countrymen." With such men, and with sinners of equal disrepute, Matthew invited Jesus to eat, in order that he might, in parting with them, make open confession of his new allegiance.

11. When the Pharisees saw—According to the custom the banquet hall would stand open to the public gaze, and the Pharisees had followed him with set purpose.

They said unto his disciples — Why not to Jesus himself? Perhaps they were still smarting from his recent exposure of them, and feared further embarrassments. Another suggestion is that they thought by their scorn to draw some from following Jesus.

12. He said—Making himself spokesman for his disciples. In one swift sentence he discloses his sympathy for the outcast, and epitomizes his mission as the physician of those who are morally and spiritually sick.

13. Go . . . learn—They knew this familiar word about mercy and sacrifice. But, apparently, they had not learned its meaning. Jesus had often upon his lips this thought that was so present in the utterance of the prophets. God wants not the vain sacrifices into which men put no humility and reverence, but he wants worship that issues into fair play. These Pharisees knew how to quibble over the minutiae of the law, but they knew nothing of the compassionate treatment of their fellows.

Not to call the righteous—If they were the righteous they had no more need for him.

KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN.

Unseen Dirt Plays Havoc With Lives — Important Matter.

"Dirty hands are causing more deaths than bullets, poisons, railway accidents and earthquakes combined," writes R. G. Eccles in the British Health Review.

"We cannot call that murder which lacks intent to kill," he continues, "but so near to murder is it that, with increased public knowledge, the time is sure to come when dirty-handed people will have to endure an opprobrium that will make them skulk in shame.

"People who are willing to tolerate the visible dirt are pretty sure to be none too careful concerning the dangerous dirt. The two kinds get blended.

"It is, however, not only possible, but actually probable, that there are foul and filthy hands that are by their owners kept manicured till finger nails shine and every vestige of visible blackness has disappeared.

"They wash as they eat and sleep, under the guidance of a clock. That there is a fitness in time for washing in order to be clean has not dawned upon them.

"It is the unseen dirt that plays the mischief with human life, because it is alive and can multiply indefinitely.

"It is quite likely that nearly all normal persons wash their hands and faces on getting up in the morning, or after particularly dirty forms of work, but with very many the absence of visible dirt is sufficient excuse for the neglect of washing at all other times of the day.

"Hands that are able to pollute water by a mere touch cannot possibly be shaken without leaving behind evidences of unnamable dirt.

"These are the kinds of hands that handle our bread, our meat, our pastry, our fruit, and our money."

Mr. Eccles asserts that dirty hands may lead to plague, cholera, typhoid fever, consumption, diphtheria, scarlet fever and many other diseases.

AN EARL AS A LANDLORD.

An Appalling Indictment Against Owner of 39,000 Acres.

A grave indictment has been brought against the Earl of Feversham by Dr. W. S. Wheaton, one of the Local Government Board Inspectors of Great Britain.

The Earl is the owner of 39,000 acres in Yorkshire, and the estate comprises the town of Helmsley and a large number of villages. The condition of many of the dwellings, according to the official report, is of an appalling character. The most serious part of the affair is that at the time the indictment was made the Earl of Feversham was chairman of the rural district council which has jurisdiction over the area concerned.

Dr. Wheaton's report states that the worst dwellings were in three villages owned by the Earl of Feversham. Nearly all were dilapidated, the walls damp, the roofs of decayed thatch. Many houses were without back doors or back windows, so that there was no through ventilation. The windows were very small, and often would not open. The walls of the dwellings were greatly dilapidated, and in several instances he saw houses occupied portions of the walls of which had fallen down.

In contrast to the hovels which the Local Government Inspector describes is Duncombe Park, the palatial Yorkshire seat of the Earl of Feversham, near Helmsley. Macaulay once described it as "a palace more spendid than had ever been inhabited by the magnificent Villiers."

THE LORD OF THE JUNGLE.

A Hunter Tells of the Tiger's Penetrating Moan.

"I have seen a tiger, sitting up a hundred yards from me in the sunlight, washing his face like a cat, move a couple of steps into the shade, and fade away like the Cheshire cat in 'Alice in Wonderland'; but what is more extraordinary is that he can move without some dry leaf or stalk crackling to betray him," says a writer in the London Times.

"Often in a beat in the middle of the hot season the inexperienced sportsman's heart is in his mouth as he hears the crushing of a dead leaf, the slow, stealthy tread of what seems some heavy animal; but it is only "moa,' the peacock, the first to move ahead of the beaters. Then after a period of strained watching, when the eye can and does detect the move of the tiniest bird, the quiver of a leaf, suddenly, without a sound, the great beast stands before you.

"He does not always care to move quietly, but when he does death is not more silent.

"The question of how a white or otherwise abnormally marked tiger can take its prey is simplified by the fact that as a general rule the tiger kills at night or at dawn or dusk, and that it is only the cattle-killing tiger who takes his lordly toll of the village cattle by day.

"Again, that wonderful voice, the most mournful sound in captivity, which literally hushes the jungle and fills the twilight with horror, is a powerful aid to him in his hunting. Often I have heard it. The memory of one occasion is as vivid as the moment when it held me spellbound.

"I was stalking sambur in the evening in a glade in the forest, when suddenly, from not fifty yards above me, rang out a long, low, penetrating moan which seemed to fill the jungle with a terrifying thrill, and for a moment made the heart stand still.

"The native shikaree, who in spite of Mowgli's contempt may know something of jungle ways, believes that the deer, hearing the tiger's voice, and unable from the reverberating nature of the sound to locate the position of their enemy, stand or lie still, and so give him the chance of stalking his prey.

"There is probably some truth in this, for unless you are following the tiger and have seen him, it is almost impossible from the sound alone to tell with any certainty where he is."

THE BEET AS FOOD.

The beet beats all. It is one of the most valuable of cultivated plants. The sugar beet is a main source of sugar and alcohol. The large forage beets supply an excellent food for cattle and the red garden varieties provide savory table vegetables. The usefulness of this valuable food has now been increased by the production of an edible flour from sugar beets. The desiccation of sliced sugar beets is practised in Germany on an extensive scale, but the product is employed exclusively as fodder for sattle. In Belgium a meal is made from dried beets. It is entirely free from the distinctive flavor of the beet and is suitable for cakes, puddings and pastry. As it contains about 65 per cent. of sugar it can often be substituted with advantage for sugar in somewhat larger quantities. The processes of desiccation and grinding not only cost less than the extraction of sugar, but preserve all the sugar of the beet, part of which is rejected in the form of molasses in the process of sugar making.

ONE OR THE OTHER.

Have you ever run into someone in the street, and then dodged from side to side for half a minute, vainly endeavoring to pass, while the other person, by some strange fatality, blocked your every move by trying to pass you in the same way?

Such was the experience of a young man the other day. He and a nice young lady had been going through this performance for several seconds, when his unwilling vis-a-vis staggered him by saying:

"Well, hurry up! Which is it to be—a waltz or a two-step?"

"Really," said the callow youth, "I am no longer a mere boy. I've got a little hair on my lip now."

"Yes," replied Miss Peppery, "and perhaps in a few weeks you may have another one."

A fellow whose appearance warranted the belief that he had quarrelled with soap and water some years ago applied for a position as porter with a large concern where help was badly needed. The manager looked him over doubtfully. Finally he handed him half a dollar. "Go up town and take a bath," he told him. "Then come back, and maybe I'll be able to take you on." The fellow started for the door. "And, oh, by the way," the manager called after him, "if there's any change left take another bath."

Hints for Busy Housekeepers.

Recipes and Other Valuable Information of Particular Interest to Women Folks.

HOT BREADS.

Corn Bread.—One and one-fourth cupfuls flour, three-fourths cupful cornmeal, one-fourth cupful sugar, generous lump butter, one egg, one cupful sweet milk, one-half teaspoonful of salt, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Cream butter and sugar, add egg, milk, and flour; beat well, then fold in the B. P.

Popovers.—To make one dozen popovers use two cupfuls of milk, one teaspoonful of salt (level), two cupfuls of flour, and two eggs. Mix the well beaten yolks with the milk. Add gradually to the flour and salt. Then add the stiffly beaten whites. Have the gem pans well greased and very hot. Bake in a moderate oven twenty-one minutes exactly. This is the real English popover.

Date Muffins.—One-third cupful of butter, one-fourth cupful of sugar, one egg, three-fourths cupful of milk, two cupfuls of pastry flour, three level teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one-half teaspoonful of salt, scant half pound of dates. Cream the butter, add the sugar and egg, beaten light, sift together three times flour, baking powder, and salt; add these to first mixture alternately with milk, beat thoroughly, and add dates, stoned and cut in pieces. Bake in a hot, well buttered muffin pan.

Soft Ginger Bread.—One-half cupful of sugar, scant cupful of molasses, one-half cupful of butter, one teaspoonful of ginger, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, two teaspoonfuls of soda, one cupful of boiling water, two and one-half cupfuls of flour.

Brown Bread.—Two cupfuls of sour milk, two-thirds of cupful of dark brown sugar, two level teaspoonfuls of soda, pinch of salt, three cupfuls of graham flour. Bake one hour. Easily made.

EGGS.

Egg Economy.—An egg is a necessity when making good coffee. Try this method: Purchase two pounds of coffee at one time, put in a shallow pan, break the whites of two eggs over it, and mix well, now place in a warm oven (not hot) and let it remain until dry and glossy (stirring occasionally). Remove from oven, put in the coffee receptacle, and it is ready at a moment's notice. When preparing use only cold water and you will have the most excellent cup of coffee, to say nothing of time, trouble and expense saved.

Egg Helps.—The following suggestions may be of some assistance when you have a separate white or yolk of an egg on hand that seems to fit in nowhere. A single yolk may be used for either one of these sauces: white, chocolate, Hollandaise, Pearnaise, hot maitre d'hotel, drawn butter, also for mayonnaise, boiled dressing, for cement balls, and dumplings for soup. A surplus white or two may be used for merringues, snow puddings, cream whips, macaroons, sherbets, for clearing soups, coffee, jellies; added to cream, it will increase the bulk and speed whipping; if well beaten and applied lightly with a piece of flannel it will cleanse and freshen all leather.

Creamed Eggs.—Take a tablespoonful of flour and mix in a little sweet milk or cream; when smooth add a half pint of milk and a pinch of salt; boil two or three minutes. Have a warm platter with several slices of slightly toasted bread on it, on which are placed hard boiled eggs cut in quarters. Pour the hot sauce over these and serve immediately. This is a delicious dish for a luncheon. Try it.

ECONOMICAL DISHES.

Cake.—Eggless, butterless layer cake: One-half cupful of lard beaten to a cream with one cupful of sugar, two slightly rounding teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one level teaspoonful of salt mixed with two level cupfuls of flour and thoroughly sifted, one scant cupful of milk or half milk and half water, one-half teaspoonful of vanilla. To the creamed sugar add milk and flour alternately, then vanilla. Bake in three layers. Date filling: One cupful of chopped dates, one-half cupful of sugar, one-half cupful of water. Cook slowly until thick. When partly cool put between layers.

Gravy Without Meat.—Cut fine one large onion and fry in two tablespoonfuls of bacon fryings, or lard and butter mixed. When nicely browned add two tablespoonfuls of flour and brown, adding water gradually, as for any gravy, until about a pint has been used. Season highly with pepper and salt and add one and a half cupfuls of canned tomatoes. Let simmer for twenty minutes, or until right consistency and a nice brown, stirring well. If carefully made and browned this gravy is delicious, and even your own family will doubt that there is no meat foundation. It is particularly adaptable and good with rice steamed and served as a vegetable—southern style. For a nutritious, palatable, and economical dish there is none superior to rice and gravy as above. Pile the rice high in a vegetable dish and serve the gravy from a boat.

CANDY.

Divinity.—Three cupfuls of granulated sugar, two-thirds of a cupful of water, one-third cupful corn syrup. Let cook until when tried in water it hits hard against glass. Pour this gradually in the whites of two eggs beaten stiff. Add one cupful nuts; beat until it begins to thicken, pour in buttered tins. When cool cut in squares.

Fruit Roll.—One pound of dates stoned and chopped, one pound of English walnut meats chopped; mix well together, roll out in shape of large sausage, and roll in granulated sugar; slice into quarter inch slices.

Puffed Rice Fudge.—One cupful of milk, two cupfuls of sugar, one square of chocolate. Boil fifteen or twenty minutes, then take off the stove and put two cupfuls of puffed rice and a piece of butter as large as an egg, and flavoring, then beat and pour in buttered pans, and cut in squares.

Fudge.—Two cupfuls of sugar to one cupful of milk, three squares of bitter chocolate, a piece of butter the size of a walnut, one cupful of walnuts chopped fine, a teaspoonful of vanilla extract; boil fifteen or twenty minutes, pour in a greased pan when hard, and cut in squares.

USEFUL HINTS.

Button Help.—Pin the buttonholed edge of the garment in place. Take a needleful of thread, begin at one end and take a single stitch in every buttonhole, carrying the thread to the opposite end. Cut the thread half way between the buttonholes, lift off the cloth, and there will be a bit of thread where each buttonhole should be sewed.

Broken Plaster.—To mend broken plastering—When plaster of Paris is not at hand, use this excellent substitute. Use equal parts of sifted coal ashes and fine sand with one of sifted wheat flour. Mix to a stiff paste with cold water. This will set hard in a few hours, and any one can apply it.

Instead of a collar button—A small button sewed to the back of the collar band will be found to be much more comfortable than a collar button, and has the merit of not getting lost. Hubby need no longer hunt for his collar button.

Clean Comforters.—A way to keep your bed comforters clean. Make a large slip, similar to a pillow slip, from white muslin. Finish at the end with buttons and buttonholes. They can be slipped off at any time, at the same time keeping your comforter clean. In case of sickness: If your comforter is soiled and you haven't time to wash it, or as in winter, when you can't wash it, just slip the covering of muslin over it and button it shut. The sick person's bed then looks fresh and clean.

Broom Holder.—Take two large empty spools, two nails about an inch longer than spools, but nail through the spools and drive the nails, leaving enough space between spools for the broom to hang in.

Stove Cement.—If the stove is cracked a good cement is made by taking wood ashes and salt in equal proportions, reduced to a paste with cold water, and fill in cracks when stove is cold. It will soon harden.

Testing Nutmeg.—To test nutmegs prick them with a pin, and if they are good the oil will instantly spread around the puncture.

HUSBAND'S CLOTHES.

Remove Shine—Cover a small piece of wood with emery paper, not sand paper, and gently rub over shiny places.

If you will add a tablespoonful of bluing to half a cupful of water and sponge shiny places it will remove the shine.

Hang Pressed Trousers—Fit a broom handle under shelf of closet. Cover with several layers of batting and then with cambric. Fasten so that broom handle will hang at least four inches from wall. Fold trousers and hang over stick. Keep them new looking.

Greasy Coat Collars—Sponge with alcohol and salt. Will clean them thoroughly.

Clean a Suit—Spread a sheet on table and rub as much block magnesia on suit as it will take. Wrap in sheet and hang away for several days. Brush thoroughly and press with a moderate iron and damp cloth.